

**Decision Record  
for  
FY2003 Culvert Replacements  
DNA No. 13 to EA OR125-97-12**

**Background:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District previously prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA OR125-97-12) and Finding of No Significant Impact to evaluate the effects of replacing or modifying existing culvert sites on BLM-controlled roads within the Umpqua Field Office. The objective was to replace or modify culverts currently prohibiting the passage of aquatic life forms, especially anadromous and resident salmonids. The EA analyzed a Proposed Action along with a No Action Alternative. A thirty-day public comment period ended on June 19, 1997. No comments were received from the general public, adjacent landowners, or interested citizens.

**Survey and Manage:**

The EA cited was created before Survey and Manage mollusk management was initiated. Currently we are operating under the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (USDA; USDI, 2000). For the Coos Bay District BLM there are no mollusk requiring pre-disturbance surveys. Protection is required for known sites of *Megomphix hemphilli*, as of September 30, 1999. There are no known *Megomphix hemphilli* sites, as of September 30, 1999 in the area of the project sites.

There are no known occurrences of Survey and Manage or Special Status plant species in this area. The treatment will occur within the road prism, which has been in a perpetual state of disturbance, and does not provide habitat for Survey and Manage or Special Status plant species. No surveys are required.

There will be no removal of trees to facilitate the projects. As the canopy overstory will not be affected, no surveys are required for Red Tree Voles.

**Decision:**

My decision is to adopt the Proposed Action of EA OR 125-97-12 for the four culvert replacement projects and one modification project described in DNA No. 12 for the Umpqua Field Office and recommendations in the specialist reports. The four replacement projects will consist of completely replacing the existing culverts with new pipes of appropriate size and configuration to improve access to cold water refugia while enhancing the sediment, large woody debris and nutrient transport through the stream crossings.

The design features are accepted as described therein, including:

- Soup Creek Culvert Replacement (T. 23S., R. 09W., Section 21) is within ¼ mile of suitable Marbled Murrelet. There will be a daily timing restriction from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. Work will be scheduled no earlier than 2 hours after sunrise and no later than 2 hours before sunset.
- If potential cultural resources are encountered during these projects, all work in the vicinity should stop and the District Archeologist must be notified at once.
- Exposed soils will be mulched and seeded with native vegetation stock or an approved BLM seed mixture.
- Segregate and recycle removed road asphalt.
- Utilize existing fill in the construction to the maximum extent possible. Any waste material is to be disposed at an approved waste disposal site in accordance to the BMPs of the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and the specialist's recommendations.
- Utilize Best Management Practices, construction recommendations, and stipulations for culvert removal, as referenced in the EA OR125-97-12.

**Rationale for Decision:**

The Proposed Action would restore stream passage for aquatic organisms as well as restoring the natural sediment regime, channel bottom configuration, and hydrologic flows of the associated streams. The decision is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Final Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* with its *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines* (Interagency 1994). Allowing increased access to additional stream habitat will benefit associated fisheries and other aquatic species and help to ensure their persistence within the landscape.

**Monitoring:**

Compliance monitoring of the Proposed Action should be performed by the BLM Project Inspector (PI) for the project contract. It is the PI's responsibility to ensure compliance with contractual stipulations (including design features).

Stream crossing structures would be monitored annually (at a minimum) by area fish biologists for at least three years after design objectives are initially achieved or modifications are installed.

Monitoring would be designed to measure changes in substrate presence within the structures, and the ability of the structure to maintain connectivity with the stream bed at the inlet and outlet.

Culverts would be inspected and maintained on a routine basis, following the guidelines recommended in the District Transportation Management Plan to meet ACS objectives.

Decision Recommended by:

NRSA: Kathy Wall Date: 07/10/02

NRSA: Ralph L. Thomas Date: 07/11/02

NRSA: Steven D. Fowler Date: 07/15/02

Decision Approved by:

Umpqua Field Office Manager

Elaine Raper: /s/ Kathy Wall, Acting Date: 07/15/02